WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Illegal mining in the Country

3043. (PROF.) SHRI M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to check illegal mining in the country;

(b) the number of illegal mines found out in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) what actions were taken against those involved in the illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The following steps are being taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining in the leasehold areas:—

i) Intelligence collection.

ii) Dozing off/filling up of illegal mining sites, wherever possible.

iii) Erection of fencing/walls in abandoned/disused openings.

iv) Round the clock patrolling by coal company's own security force and CISF.

v) Cases of illegal mining are reported to the district authorities.

vi) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police and FIRs are lodged.

vii) Close liason is kept with the district authority seeking their help and co-operation in curbing illegal mining.

(b) Cases of illegal mining activities in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned/closed/disused mines or from outcrop regions have been reported mainly from Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). The number of sites prone to illegal mining activities identified by ECL, BCCL and CCL year-wise and State-wise are given below:

Company	Year	West Bengal	Bihar/Jharkhand
	1998-1999	30	16
BCL	1999-2000	31	15
	2000-2001	32	15
	1998-1999	1	29
BCCL	1999-2000	1	27
	2000-2001	1	38
	1998-1999	—	—
ECL	1999-2000	—	14
	2000-2001	—	10

(c) Illegally mined coal and implements are seized. The persons apprehended are handed over to the local police by the coal companies and FIRs are lodged. Further, preventive and punitive action would lie within the purview of the State authorities.

Reforms in mining sector

3044. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to introduce reforms in mining sector/coal mining sector to effect a major change during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof in all respects;

(c) when the reforms are expected to be initiated; and

(d) how far it shall improve the mining conditions/coal production and reduction in prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The major reforms initiatives are as follows:

1. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha with the following objectives:

(i) To allow the Indian Companies to mine coal and lignite in the country